GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1727
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
VIOLATION BY DTH OPERATORS
Mcleod Smt. Ingrid

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Direct-To-Home (DTH) operators are violating the interoperability clause of DTH guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those operators found violating the DTH guidelines;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to protect the interest of the consumers in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (e): Complaints have been received on non-interoperability of STBs provided by service providers using MPEG2 Compression format. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government that the Set Top Boxes being provided or proposed to be provided by the new DTH licensees wishing to go on MPEG4 compression format are not in compliance with the technical interoperability clause of DTH license agreement. The entire issue of interoperability requirements and whether there is a need to modify the DTH Guidelines was referred to TRAI for recommendations which has since submitted its recommendations on the subject. Subsequently a meeting was held on 22nd February, 2008 with the DTH licensees, TRAI, Bureau of Indian Standards, Prasr Bharati Officials and Consumer Electronics & Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) to discuss the issue. In view of the technological issues involved the issues raised in the meeting are under examination.